

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I recall the words of novelist George Eliot, "The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts." Mr. Lockhart didn't make history, but he certainly grew good and kindness in the world as a public servant, businessman, friend and family man.

And so, I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Mr. Jack Lockhart's exemplary life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2017

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained, and so I missed Roll Call vote number 439 regarding Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

I also missed Roll Call vote number 440 regarding Improving Access to Capital Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION WARREN MCKEON POST 587

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2017

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of American Legion Warren McKeon Post 587 as its members celebrate the 75th Anniversary of their charter in Foresthill, California.

The American Legion was first incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization dedicated to continued devotion of America's service members and veterans. Hundreds of local American Legion posts around the country strengthen our nation one community at a time, and the Warren McKeon Post is no exception to that standard.

The American Legion Warren McKeon Post 587 was founded on September 11, 1942—just nine months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The Post is named in honor of Warren Alexander McKeon, who was raised at Yankee Jim's, located three miles from Foresthill, CA, and served in the 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division in World War I. Private McKeon was killed in action on July 18, 1918 and buried at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France.

The Post's 160 members serve a number of different charities including the Veterans Home of California, Travis Air Force Base Fisher House, American Legion Boys State, and Boy Scouts of America, in addition to sending care packages for troops deployed overseas.

To honor the sacrifices made by the men and women who have put themselves in harm's way to defend our nation, American Legion Warren McKeon Post 587 has built a veterans monument in front of the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall. The monument, to be dedicated on September 11, 2017, will serve

as a permanent reminder of our nation's sacrifice in the pursuit of a free and prosperous democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the significance of this day is lost on no one. Not only is September 11th the 75th anniversary of the chartering of American Legion Warren McKeon Post 587, it also marks 16 years since the deadliest terror attack on American soil.

The monument will commemorate the heroism, selflessness, devotion and patriotism of the men and women of our nation who answered the call when our nation needed their service.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans deserve to know their contributions will never be forgotten, and it is my privilege to rise in recognition of the efforts of American Legion Warren McKeon Post 587 to honor those who stepped forth from the safety of hearth and home and into mortal peril to protect their fellow citizens.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE LOST AND THOSE WHO GAVE AND RISKED THEIR LIVES DURING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on this, the 16th anniversary of the attack launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I rise to remember the victims of that horrific tragedy and those first-responders who risked, and in too many cases, sacrificed their lives to rescue the occupants of the besieged World Trade Center Towers.

The morning of September 11, 2001 is, and will always be, a day like no other. It is a day all living Americans will remember because not since Pearl Harbor had there been such a dastardly and deadly attack on American soil.

As I stand here today, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175.

When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, none of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City and the Pentagon and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives.

My prayer is that for those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord's loving arms.

And down here on the ground, their memory will never die so long as any of the many of us who loved them lives.

Mr. Speaker, as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged in the aftermath of September 11.

On that day there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters.

We were not Red State or Blue State. We were all simply Americans.

On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness. We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that have made America the greatest country in the history of the world.

We lit candles, held hands, helped neighbors, and prayed for our country and its leaders.

A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan.

As President George W. Bush announced to the American people and to the world: "Whether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done."

And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Ladin could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Americans take care of their own. Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty. And Americans want peace.

Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

I believe all Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed sixteen years ago today.

We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives.

We owe it to them to ensure that their children and loved ones will never again experience such pain, suffering, and loss.

We can do this. We must do this. After all, we are Americans.

A 9/11 MEMORIAL IN COLTS NECK,
NEW JERSEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, everyone remembers where they were and what they were doing on September 11, 2001—I was in Washington chairing a Veteran's Affairs hearing—when a group of cowards hijacked airliners in order to perpetrate the worst act of terrorism in American history.

No one remembers the shock, horror and numbing sorrow more, however, than the families and close friends of the victims.

Because it was a surprise attack, there was no chance to fight back that day although when New Jersey's Todd Beamer and other passengers learned what happened to the Twin Towers, Todd famously said "let's roll" and attacked the terrorists on board the flight that crashed in a Pennsylvania field to preclude another jet from being used as a missile.

Who can forget the courageous first responders running up the stairs of burning buildings—with total disregard for their own safety—saving some at the expense of their own lives.

On the morning of 9/11, I got a mere glimpse—I say again a glimpse—into the sense of horror suffered by the victim's families when I couldn't reach my own brother Tom—an American Airlines 757 Captain who often piloted Flight 11 from Logan to LA, the flight that crashed into the North Tower.

Stuck in traffic within sight of the burning Pentagon, cell phones were all but gridlocked. At noon, I got through. He and his flight attendant wife Sandy were safe but were in anguish because they knew the pilots and crew on board Flight 11.

For the families of the victims—and I got to know and work with several including Kathy Wisniewski who lost her husband and today works on my staff, the Jersey Girls and Theresa Velardi, the news that day was absolutely devastating.

Both then—and now 16 years later—words are still inadequate to convey our empathy for those who died and for the victim's families.

For many, their faith in God has helped them survive and overcome.

Yet for 16 years, the families have had to endure their loss and a broken heart.

Which reminds me of that haunting song in *Les Misérables* after one of the main characters loses many of his friends in a battle at a barricade:

There's a grief that can't be spoken
There's a pain goes on and on;
Empty chairs and empty tables . . .
Where my friends will meet no more . . .

Yes, empty chairs and empty tables in New Jersey and elsewhere but those chairs and tables are not empty in heaven.

Yesterday, I attended a 9/11 memorial in Colts Neck, New Jersey. Theresa Velardi, who lost her dad, Paul James Furmato, on September 11, was eloquent in her moving statement, which I include in the RECORD:

I have not spoken at a memorial like this before, so I hope you will all bear with me as I try to get through this. First, I want to thank Lillian for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I would like to thank everyone who takes care of this memorial and the township of Colts Neck for providing me with a place to come to remember and to be with my Dad. And I also want to thank all of you for coming out today and always keeping the families and first responders of 9/11 in your hearts and your prayers.

My father, Paul James Furmato, was an institutional sales trader and a Vice-President at Cantor Fitzgerald. He was taken away from me 16 years ago and my entire family dynamic was changed. I remember waking up morning after morning watching my mother fight back her tears and try her best to raise 3 children on her own. I remember waking up every day after the twin towers crashed wondering, "does this mean Dad is really never coming home?" I remember being a Girl Scout in Colts Neck and having to skip Father-Daughter dances because my father was murdered. I remember hoping and praying, even years later, that my Dad would come walking through the door one day and that this was all a really horrible dream.

But it wasn't a dream. And my family would be changed forever. The entire country would be changed forever. You don't remember much from when you were 6, but you never forget the feeling of losing a fa-

ther. You never forget the pain, the devastation, or the confusion. And it wasn't just my family. Families from around the country lost loved ones. There was true devastation felt all around after the twin towers fell. The country went into a state of shock.

But shortly thereafter, something incredible happened. We came together. We united with those around us and worked towards repairing New York City, repairing broken families, and repairing the damage in our hearts. In this country, we support each other. In Monmouth County, we support each other. And in my hometown Colts Neck, we support each other. This community picked each other up off the ground. I remember Cedar Drive Middle School teachers and Conover Road Elementary School teachers showing up at my house days after with food and condolences. All types of Colts Neck residents showed up at my door to lend my mom the support and prayers she truly needed.

As devastating as 9/11 was for my family and for our entire community, it reminded all of us to help each other and look out for one another. It reminded us that no matter how bad things may get, there is always a better tomorrow. No matter what age we are or what troubles we face, we can overcome. We can fight through it and we can work together to rebuild.

My father's life was taken from him at 37 years old. My mother lost her husband, her soul mate after spending 17 years with him. She was left with heartbreak and three children at impressionable ages. Yet she continued to wake up every morning to provide and to care for her children. She refused to let the hatred of others consume her own heart and mind. I grew up watching a woman never give up and I knew I wanted to follow in her footsteps.

I am 22 years old. I'm a college graduate from Fordham University with a double degree in Philosophy and Political Science. I run an office as the Executive Director at the Monmouth County Republican Committee. I am working towards my J.D. at Seton Hall Law School on the weekends. I live on my own and I try my very best to balance everything going on in my life. I strive every single day to make my Father proud in Heaven. When life becomes overwhelming or stressful or it all just feels like too much, I come here and I sit right on that bench with Paul James Furmato's name on it. I sit here with my Father beside me. Just this past week, my world felt like it was caving in. But I came here and I sat with my Dad. I prayed I was making him proud in Heaven and I promised him yet again that I will continue to work hard every single day to be the best daughter I can be no matter what life throws my way.

At times, life gets difficult. I have seen that and experienced that first hand. We see heartbreak and disasters like the storms passing through Texas and Florida just this past week. The only thing we can do when life hits us hard is overcome. We have to reflect on tragedies like 9/11 and allow them to help us grow.

REINFORCING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this vital agreement brokered be-

tween the President and Congressional leaders. This is a must pass bill to bring much-needed relief to those devastated by Hurricane Harvey and those who will be hit by Hurricane Irma. Indeed, it allows for a short-term extension of the debt ceiling to avoid default and keeps our government functional at a time of natural disaster and ongoing crisis.

Thank you to the President and our Leadership for pulling the nation back from the brink again. I hope that it will bring a return to bipartisan compromise and regular order. We must move away from the destabilizing cycle of moving from one manufactured crisis to the next, with no adopted budget for FY 2018 resulting in arbitrary spending allocations passed down from the Majority's Leadership.

Congress should provide the American people with a 2018 final budget to assure a government funded at a level that provides stability and security.

Let's put politics aside and pass this bill. Then, let us embark on bipartisan negotiations to develop a new budget agreement which allows for adequate caps for both defense and non-defense spending.

I urge my colleagues to support this package for the benefit of our nation.

NEW YORK TIMES OP-ED BY GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2017

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman wrote recently in *The New York Times* about "the dangerous political turn of an agency that is supposed to be guided by science."

Governor Whitman, a Republican who served as EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush, has a stark warning about the direction the Agency is taking under President Donald Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt: "Policy should always be rooted in unbiased science. The EPA is too important to treat like a reality TV show. People's lives and our country's resources are at stake."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the entirety of Governor Whitman's op-ed in *The New York Times*, "How Not to Run the E.P.A.":

I have been worried about how the Environmental Protection Agency would be run ever since President Trump appointed Scott Pruitt, the former attorney general of Oklahoma, to oversee it. The past few months have confirmed my fears. The agency created by a Republican president 47 years ago to protect the environment and public health may end up doing neither under Mr. Pruitt's direction,

As a Republican appointed by President George W. Bush to run the agency, I can hardly be written off as part of the liberal resistance to the new administration. But the evidence is abundant of the dangerous political turn of an agency that is supposed to be guided by science.

The E.P.A.'s recent attack on a reporter for *The Associated Press* and the installation of a political appointee to ferret out grants containing "the double C-word" are only the latest manifestations of my fears, which